

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Tuesday, April 2. 1766.

MY last brought the Introduction to the Publick Affairs, down to the Original of our present distinction between *High Church* and *Low Church*; I place it in the Sober, Serious, and considering Gentlemen of the Church of *England*, refusing to join with their furious Neighbours in Persecution, and running down not the *Dissenters* only, but even the whole Settlement and Constitution.

For I must be allow'd to tell these Gentlemen, we call *High Church*, that their Extravagancies did not point at the *Dissenters* alone, but at all our Settlement, Revolution, Succession, and every thing that excludes the hopes of a certain Party, which all the Nation declar'd against; and 'tis a particular Satisfaction to the *Dissenters*, or at least ought to be so, that in all Cases, where in their Liberty has been struck at, the same

Party, and even in the same Actions, have level'd the Designs, both at them, and at the whole Constitution and Settlement of this Nation; and my entering now upon the Enquiry into the State of the Nation, is plainly upon this very Design, and with this Resolution, to trace the Foot-steps of this Party, and discover, that let their Pretences be really what they will, they all are pointed at the Overthrow of the Settlement of this Nation, both in Matters of Government and Religion.

In pursuing this, I shall necessarily show the Connexion of their Designs one with another, and make it appear, that all the Methods they take, even in the Greatest Variety, have their Rise in the same Design, tend to the same End, and are carried on by the same Party.

I foresee strong Opposition in this Attempt, and some Danger, but no Difficulty; and therefore I shall let my Reader, see a short Scheme of this Work, the Ground-Plat of my present Undertaking, and the Reasons of it.

I begin with the Reasons, and they are taken from the present Practice of a Set of Men among us, who having run thro' the full length of *managing* themselves, and attempting to Ruine and Destroy those *that mended their Mistakes*, are now Embark'd in a new Method, of buoying up their Expiring Hopes, and this is by Slander, Calumny, and Misrepresentation of the Publick Affairs.

'Tis manifest, when they had the Publick Ministry of the Nation in their Hands, they would come into no Measures themselves, they would hearken to no Mediums, accept of no Proposals to Regulate and Ascertain their Proceedings, but run on to Embroil us at Home, and lessen us Abroad; and brought things to such a pass, that the Government was even reduc'd to a Necessity of Disbanding them.

Should I run back to all their Unhappy Proceedings, and draw a Plan of their Conduct, what Work must I make, and what a Picture must I draw? Here would appear strange things, that Posterity would be a little amaz'd at; and certainly the End of the late Reign, and the beginning of this, set in a true Light, would leave those Gentlemen something to Blush at, and that they would chuse to forget, rather than Attempt to Defend; and I shall not go far to the Particulars.

Here I must examine, by whose Conduct the Aid of 10000 Men, stipulated by Antient Leagues with the Dutch, to be furnish'd when ever they were Invaded by the French, were so long delay'd. and left uncertain at the beginning of this War, as drove the Dutch and us too, to the Necessity of that Unhappy Amusement to the French; I mean, acknowledging the King of Spain?

Here I must examine, by whose Mismanagement, the Elector of Bavaria was lost, and all Flanders deliver'd into the Hands of

the French; the Towns that had Cost such Immense Quantities of Blood and Treasure to be Expended, be lost in a Moment, and the Flower of the Dutch Infantry, to fall into the Hands of the Enemy, even in the beginning of that War; while that Prince, who seem'd to stand ready to, who bid most for some Months, was wholly neglected here, and the fair Offers, which, as I have been inform'd, were made in his Behalf, slighted?

Here I must examine, by whose Negligence the King of Portugal was lost for near two Years, and vast Summs of Money Expended, as well as great Opportunities against Spain lost, before that false step could be recover'd, to the giving Philip V. Leisure to root his Interest in the Kingdom of Spain, and take an uninterrupted Possession of that vast Monarchy?

Here I should be oblig'd to Reproach some body, with rejecting the Proposal of Assisting, and in time Relieving the Brave Camisars, upon that weak Party-Presence, that it was not Honourable to Encourage Subjects to Rebel against their Prince, tho' the Prince they Fought against, was not only in open War with us, but Practis'd the very same thing at the same time in Hungary against the Emperor; not to insist upon his having stoop'd so low, as even to Encourage Assassinations and Conspiracies here, both against the Person of the late King, and the Government of this Nation?

I must further here examine, who Discourag'd early Proposals, for Attempts upon the Spanish West Indies; both Publick, when my Lord P——rough, had undertaken to go with our Fleet, and privately by such Undertakers, as with the Protection of the Government, would effectually have Supplanted the growing Trade of the French there; by which they bring immense Treasures Home to their own Ports by Trade, and to their Government by their Politicks, while we Patiently sit still and see our Commerce Ruin'd, and have no share in a Trade, which brings the French twenty for one.

Should I go back to examine these things, what

what Wretched Politicians, would some People, who talk much of themselves that way, appear? And what Account would they give of their Publick Stewardship, that Cavill'd at the Treaty of Partition, and scrupled the share allotted the *French*, that they might let it go altogether, and fight *after their Fashion* for it afterward? That lost *Spain*, to save our *Turkey Trade*, and let the *French* seize *America*, for the Encouragement of our Manufactures?

But having touch'd at these things, which with a sad Heart, every *Englishman* must Reflect upon; I pass on to the better turn of Affairs, which by Her Majesty's Conduct, and the Prudence of her Counsellors, has been since given to this almost Ruin'd Nation.

And first I must observe, that these Gentlemen having brought things to this pass, the War going on under vast Disadvantages Abroad, especially at Sea, and in *Italy*, and *Spain*, a yet more Unhappy War began at Home, which brought this Kingdom to the very brink of Destruction.

And tho' this was a War of Intrigue, and was carried on by Pen and Ink, Plot, Counsel, and Cabal, and not by Sword and Gun; yet I believe it will be allow'd me, it was a Fatal Scife, and was grown up to such heighth, that it involv'd the whole Nation, and the Party-Flame had almost burnt up all our Peace.

In this Condition we stood entirely Embroil'd, Disputing, Preaching, Printing one another into all manner of Excesses, Raillery, Lampoons, Invektives, and Eternal Reproachings of one another, fill'd the Mouths of all Parties, and all Men might see there was a Storm a coming, which wheresoever it fell, would cause an Inundation, fatal to one side or another, if not at last to both.

Her Majesty saw with Concern the Approaching Mischiefs, and Mercifully Interpos'd with moving Exhortations to Union, with Arguments that would have prevail'd upon any People, that were not overwhelm'd with Irreconcilable Animosities; but we are not a Nation to be led by Entreaties, and 'twas to no purpose, even for

the Queen her self to talk of Peace, where provok'd Parties seem'd to deciare, unavoidable Destruction to one another.

Her Majesty therefore, found all her Moderation reject'd, and to her Mortification, the People that abhor'd Peace, flew in the Face of Majesty it self, and Affronted their very Sovereign for the Proposal; to such a heighth was the Party-Rage arriv'd in this Nation.

I am sorry to Repeat these things; and looking back on the sad Prospect, makes a Melancholy Writer, and when Honest Men view it, there must be Melancholy Readers; for who that has any Concern for his Native Country, can look back on the Disasters, that so apparently threaten her Ruine, without Regret, and without a just Concern at the Dangers of the Nation?

I know I have been told, and expect it again, that I thought the matter over, the Victory gain'd, and that Peace and Constitution had prevail'd over Faction and Parties, and that the Party being down, I had no more to say; and indeed I own the Bill: I really thought, Truth had made some Impression upon the Minds of People, and that at last they would have been Taught by the general Experience and Nature of Things, that they were in the wrong, and that Peace at Home, and Union of Charity and Interest, were the only things would save us.

But I have Liv'd to find my self mistaken; I have held my Peace several Months; I have entred upon the weighty Subject of Trade, from which I had made a long Digression, and in which I had hopes to make this Paper particularly useful.

But Silence, and declining to Expose them, has been so far from obliging them to Peace, that the Example has been taken for a Decay of Power; and showing them the way how to have done, has possess them with the Vanity of thinking our Matter Exhausted; tho' if they would Reflect, they could not but see the just Advantages they daily give, for a very Common Judgment, to Censure their most intolerable Behaviour.

Wherefore I think my self oblig'd, while these